

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Many Bills Put Through the House During the Forenoon.

WILL ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY

Watson's Bill to Do Away with Hanging Recommended for Passage by the Committee of the Whole—Routine Work of the Senate.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 14.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The house devoted the morning session to the consideration of bills on third reading, and failed to reject any of those placed on their passage. The following bills were passed:

House bill No. 118, by Oakley, to provide for the education, support, maintenance, protection and detention of minors, by a vote of 69 to 2.

House bill No. 91, by Watson, to provide for the security of the state by requiring corporations, trusts, associations, firms and individuals, and to provide a penalty for the violation of this act, by a vote of 78 to 2.

House bill No. 171, by Felton, to appropriate money to employ counsel to assist in presenting certain state cases. By a vote of 71 to 3.

House bill No. 230, by Higgins, to compel corporations, companies or persons intending to construct or operate a railroad in the state of Nebraska to complete and operate fifty miles of their said railroad every two years, after the expiration of three years from the date of their receiving the right of way, and to provide a penalty for their failure to so complete and operate their said railroad. By a vote of 65 to 10.

House bill No. 127, by Keckey, for ditching and draining wet or swamp land and to protect the same by levees and to repeal all acts in conflict with the same. By a vote of 65 to 5.

A recess was then taken until 2 o'clock. At the afternoon session a motion to go into committee of the whole to consider bills specially advanced on the general file was defeated. The house continued its work of the morning in passing bills on third reading. The following additional bills were passed:

House bill No. 225, by Nason, for draining and protecting marsh, swamp or bottom lands in the state of Nebraska, and to repeal an act entitled "An act to provide for draining swamp lands in the state of Nebraska," approved February 18, 1891, and to provide a method to assess benefits and reward the damages, if any, arising therefrom. By a vote of 60 to 1.

House bill No. 228, by Scott, relating to judicial sales in foreclosure proceedings, by a vote of 69 to 2.

Senate bill No. 44, by Moore, to provide that all persons shall be entitled to the same civil rights, to punish all persons for the violation of its provisions, to repeal sections 317 and 318 known as chapter viii, civil rights, consolidated statutes of Nebraska of 1891, and heretofore existing and to repeal all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act by a vote of 19 to 10.

Willing to Abolish the Death Penalty.

The house then went into a committee of the whole, to consider the bill for the abolition of the death penalty. The bill was taken up by house bill No. 111, by Watson, to provide for the punishment of murder in the first degree, and to abolish the penalty of death.

McKesson moved to substitute for it senate bill No. 14, by Moore, leaving the death penalty at the discretion of a jury, and a hot discussion was on at once.

Watson made a plea for the entire abolition of the death penalty, eloquently urging that the sentiment of the people be expressed by the vote of the house.

McKesson defended the death penalty, insisting that there were some crimes so atrocious and heinous that the offender should be punished by death.

Casper declared the increasing maudlin sentimentality of the time, when murderers were made the heroes of the hour, and that the death penalty increased the number of murders instead of decreasing it, as jurors did not like to condemn a man to death, and released many criminals who would otherwise be convicted.

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NEW RATES FOR NEBRASKA

Figures on Freight Charges Provided For by the House Committee Bill.

COMPARED WITH THE IOWA SCHEDULE

Tables that Show Exactly the Difference Between the Charges in the Hawkeye State and Those Proposed for Nebraska by the Bill.

The Nebraska house of representatives more than a week ago passed a maximum freight rate bill. Whether the schedules it seeks to establish for Nebraska roads embody a cut too sweeping or too radical is an open question.

The bill presents the following tables of figures showing the rates proposed by the house bill as compared with Iowa rates put in force at the first, by the board of railway commissioners, on like commodities for given distances.

It will be observed that the Iowa short haul rates are slightly lower than those contemplated by the house bill up to a distance of twenty-five miles. On greater distances the proposed Nebraska rates are uniformly from 20 to 25 per cent higher than existing Iowa rates.

When the house committee framed the maximum bill a uniform reduction on existing Nebraska rates was made. The figures presented below will show the exact proportion of the proposed rates to the rates of Iowa up to a distance of 500 miles in a manner to be readily comprehended by the average reader or by the members of the legislature. They form a clear statement of what the maximum rate existing railroad tariffs in Nebraska are from 20 to 80 per cent higher than those of Iowa.

The figures:

Merchandise Rates in Cents Per 100 Pounds.

First Class	Second Class	Third Class	Fourth Class
Nebraska	Iowa	Nebraska	Iowa
10	10	10	10
20	20	20	20
30	30	30	30
40	40	40	40
50	50	50	50
60	60	60	60
70	70	70	70
80	80	80	80
90	90	90	90
100	100	100	100

Immediately after reconvening Dave moved that the senate go into committee of the whole to consider the bill for the abolition of the death penalty.

The committee first went back to the appropriation for the new building of the state university. The bill was taken up by house bill No. 111, by Watson, to provide for the punishment of murder in the first degree, and to abolish the penalty of death.

McKesson moved to substitute for it senate bill No. 14, by Moore, leaving the death penalty at the discretion of a jury, and a hot discussion was on at once.

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NOT THE GOVERNORS

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They Are Fully Ensured.

Cornish asked Keckey if the censured officials had been implicated in any fraud or were simply guilty of neglect.

The reply was that they were censured for neglect of their duty as public officials, and for leaving the way open for fraud and corruption. It had been found that they had not taken even ordinary care to guard this appropriation, and that the board had been guilty of the same conduct in connection with another state institution.

Cornish said that he was convinced that the board had been guilty of the same conduct in connection with another state institution.

The motion prevailed by a vote of 60 to 7. Those voting in the negative were Burns, Crane, Dow, Fulton, Kyner, Rhea and Watson.

On motion of Keckey the report was then ordered spread upon the records, Kyner alone voting no.

The same course was then followed regarding the asylum investigation committee. Irwin introduced a resolution reciting that whereas certain existing contract null and void, a committee be appointed to prepare a joint resolution to that effect, and setting forth all the facts in connection therewith within twenty-four hours.

The resolution was adopted and at 11:30 the house adjourned.

AMUSEMENTS.

Concert for the Poor Fund.

A concert for the benefit of the poor was given at the Creighton college last evening, and was attended by about 300 people. The entertainment was given under the auspices of the St. Vincent de Paul society.

Misses Lillie Bushman and M. Healey opened the entertainment with a piano duet. A quartet composed of Mrs. Bethge, Mrs. Lange, Captain Kinzie and Mr. Burley rendered "The Owl and the Pussy Cat" in a very pleasant manner.

A contralto solo by Mrs. Lange and a violin solo by Prof. Bret followed and then Miss Lulu Schenk played a very pretty piano solo.

"Protect Us Through the Coming Night" was admirably sung by Mrs. Bethge, Mrs. Lange and Captain Kinzie. Mrs. Etta Creighton then sang a solo, and the audience with a piano solo and Miss Creighton sang a soprano solo very acceptably. Mrs. E. J. Bret and Mr. J. A. Schenk were the accompanists.

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Outing to the fact that Prof. Hans Albert had slightly injured one of his fingers, he was unable to take part in the entertainment.

Mr. Winfield Blake sang a pleasing song and Mrs. J. W. Cotton an aria. The duet "The Angel" and "The Wanderers Evening Song" were sung by Mrs. Mueller and Miss M. Creighton. The concert was a success.

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Yesterday the conference between the American and National Trotting associations was held. The conference is to be held at the close of the season, and will be a success.

At the meeting of the council last evening the claim of the Barber Asphalt company amounting to \$10,515.17 was stricken from the appropriation ordinance. The amount was to come out of the street cleaning and repair fund, which is at a very low ebb at the present time. The scheme is to levy the cost of asphalt repairs against the property abutting upon the street.

A resolution was adopted instructing the Board of Public Works to order James Stephenson to clean the paved streets and follow up the cleaning by sweeping under the street.

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AMUSEMENTS.

BOYD'S NEW JET-A-GOOD THEATRE SEAT FOR \$300.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MARCH 15 AND 16. SPECIAL MATINEE THURSDAY.